

[REPLACEMENT SHEET]

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Attachment of T7 ligand to the polymer: Streptavidin (20mg, 10mg/mL) was brought up in 75 mM Sodium Phosphate, 75 mM NaCl, 5mM EDTA, pH 7.2. To this solution was added 10-15 mole eq. of LC-SPDP (100 mg/mL in DMF, Pierce). The solution was gently shaken for 1 h at RT. The SPDP modified streptavidin was then purified using a G-25 column. It was determined that each streptavidin had 8-12 PDP groups attach (Pyridine-2-Thione Assay). To the PDP-modified streptavidin was added 3 mol eq of Cys-PEG₁₁-T7 ligand (MC920). Coupling of the T7 ligand to the streptavidin was allowed to continue for 24 h at 4°C. This conjugate was purified on G-25 column, freeze dried and brought up at 3.0 mg/mL in 25 mM MES, 125 mM NaCl, pH 6.0. These polymers may then be used to form [[to]] complexes with polynucleotide to facilitate delivery of the polynucleotide to hepatocytes.

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